Development of playgrounds and Stadia

444. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the amount of Rs. 1.50 lakh for the development of playgrounds and purchase of sports items;

(b) whether the scheme of development of stadia is in force; and

(c) if not, why has it been discontinued and since when?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Refurbishing the image of CCBI

445. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drastic changes are needed to refurbish the image of Cricket Control Board of India in view of the dismal performance of the Indian cricket team in the last one day matches held in Australia; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) The promotion of the game of cricket in the country is the responsibility of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) which is an autonomous organization. There are, at present no statutory rules to regulate the functioning of BCCI and other National Sports Federations. However, Government of India is in the process of formulating a new Sports Policy, under which the issue of appropriate functioning of Sports Federations and allied institutions is also proposed to be addressed.

Steps to improve sports in the country

446. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to improve sports in the country;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by SAI in this regard;

(c) whether Government have announced any new scheme for the sports persons in the country; and